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IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY PRODUCED

MEW THRESHING MACHINE, BINDER -- Rude Pravo, No 212, 9 Sep 1949

A new type of threshing machine, the so called Automat, has been tested at the factory of the agricultural delege in Dhrineves. The machines are of simple construction and replace the work of as many as ten workers; they are operated by only three to four men, whereas at present the threshing machines are operated by 10 to 14 men. The machines are more efficient than the so-called cash automats of last year, and are squipped with automatic sheaf handlers, on which the grain is thrown directly from the wagons. The tests have shown that the machine can grind 17 metric centners or more per hour. Czechoslovak factories are preparing for next year another modern model with higher output per hour.

A new binder, substantially stronger and 4 quintals lighter than present binders, has been constructed at the factory of the Agrostroj-Knotek state enterprise. It has a simplified binding mechanism and reliably handles paper ropes of all types. A prototype of this binder has been delivered to a state machine station and is being used in the harvest in Karlovy Vary Kraj,

BEGIN FIRST SUGAR CAMPAIGN OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN -- Lidove Noving, No 235, 7 Oct 49

The sugar mills at Syrovatka and Tovacov have been working since 5 October. All ungar mills have been nationalized since February 1949, and decentralization has taken place so that each sugar mill has become a state enterprise. In order to conduct the campaign, labor reserves in Slovakia will have to be used because the seasonal employment increases fourfold. The mill equipment is mostly obsolete.

- 1 -

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The industry could not prevent financial loss in recent years because the domestic price of sugar did not correspond to the increased costs of operation. The industry was grateful for the government decision lowering the tax of 600 crowns per quintal to 160 crowns. Thus the industry has been assured that it will not suffer great financial losses in future campaigns and most of the mills will now cover their production costs.

There are always great prospects for the export of sugar. Czechoslovakia is now the greatest exporter of beet sugar. During the 1948-49 campaign it produced 569,000 tons of sugar, of which 210,000 tons were designated for export. The refined sugar is already of prewar quality.

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- 2 -

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